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Class. CHANGED TO: TS

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COUNTRY U.S.S.R.

SUBJECT New Railroad Line from Shatura to Oka;
New Town Planned at Radovice; Penal Laborers'
Nationalism

25X1A6a

ORIGIN

25X1X6

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPLEMENT

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letter of 16 October 1973 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the

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25X1X6 1. Camp Radovice, (sic) about 200 kilometers east of Moscow, held 1,000 PWs as well as battalions of women prisoners and penal laborers, most of the latter being Ostarbeiter. The PWs were divided into two German and Hungarian brigades, working alongside the Russian internees.

Employment:

2. All prisoners, including 25X1X6 who was interned for one year ending July 1946, were employed in forestry, peat cutting, smithies, various construction tasks including the production of household furniture and, most important, the erection of a saw mill and an electric power plant. The peat was sent to Moscow's main power station at Shatura.

New Rail Line

2. A railroad line, designed "to increase the power of the Shatura plant", was under construction between Shatura and Radovice and was to be extended to Oka, thus rounding out the Shatura district rail network and facilitating the delivery of wood and furniture from Radovice to Moscow. 25X1X6 claims that numerous difficulties encountered on this project were caused by little cooperation between the laboring groups, the ignorance of untrained supervisors, and the use of primitive tools whose parts could not be replaced. The result was a fifty percent loss of material such as sand, boards, etc.

4. The saw mill and electric power plant installations suffered through unskilled handling of machines, mostly German types which had been subjected to long exposure. Some of these machines did not have matching motors, others were not adapted to the electric current. It is estimated that only fifteen percent were properly assembled.

Future Plans

5. It is planned to erect a second large electric plant at Radovice and to build a new town whose economy will be based on forestry and the wood industry. To this end, 1,000 settlers' homes have been planned and are under construction.

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- 2 -

Soviet Prisoners

6. The Russian prisoners, most of whom were serving five to ten years at forced labor, are said to have been friendly and helpful to the PWs. Except for a somewhat larger meat and fat ration, their living conditions were approximately those of the PWs, but they were under stricter guard and "in some ways were handled worse than the Germans were". It is stated that thirty to forty of these internees attempted to escape each week.
7. In personal conversation, many of the forced laborers admitted a preference for life in Germany; some declared their antipathy to the Communist system. But any crisis affecting the U.S.S.R. produced an intensely nationalistic reaction among these prisoners. After Churchill's speech in April 1946, all the penal workers declared their willingness to work harder, even on Sundays, to increase Soviet armament production. In subsource's opinion, all these people, their guards, their officers, and the local inhabitants of Radovice suffered from a strong war psychosis. In camp discussions of Soviet conflicts with the Western Powers, Turkey and Iran, the penal laborers apparently placed patriotism above their personal fate, or their feeling about the regime.

Civilian Conditions

8. The Radovice area did not suffer war damage, but conditions were on the primitive side, with a lack of such normal domestic items as needles, thread, dishes, home furnishings, shoes and clothes. ~~When the camp was usually filled with wood or paper.~~ In the camp itself, PWs fashioned furniture and made drinking utensils out of old tin cans for the Soviet officers.

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